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of John Muir. In his first address he gave an account of the life of Muir, and a description of the methods of thought and study whereby he came to possess an intimate knowledge of the Yosemite and the whole Sierra region. Dr. Bade's lecture, "John Muir's Services to the Nation," constituted the oration of the day at a Fourth of July celebration. He told how Muir had toiled for the establishment of national parks, and gave an account of his cooperation with Theodore Roosevelt in attaining that end.

The next series of lectures was delivered by François E. Matthes, geologist of the United States Geological Survey. Mr. Matthes' knowledge of the Yosemite area is particularly complete, owing to the fact that he has been making careful studies of that region for nearly sixteen years. He is the author of the most authentic map of the Sierra region which includes the Yosemite. In his first address, "The Origin of the Yosemite Valley," aided by stereopticon views, he gave a complete account of the forces which created the Sierra range and showed how the tilting of the Sierra fault had accelerated the fall of the rivers down their western slope. Drawing his deductions from the "hanging valleys" from which the great waterfalls of the Yosemite plunge, he worked out the history of those processes of nature whereby for ages the valley was carved—first of all by the Merced River, and later in glacial times by the passing of the great ice floods.

His second was delivered at Glacier Point at an elevation of over seven thousand feet above sea level. Despite the difficulty of access to the place where the lecture was given, upwards of three hundred people climbed to Glacier Point to hear him. Standing on a rock overlooking the entire valley, Mr. Mat-

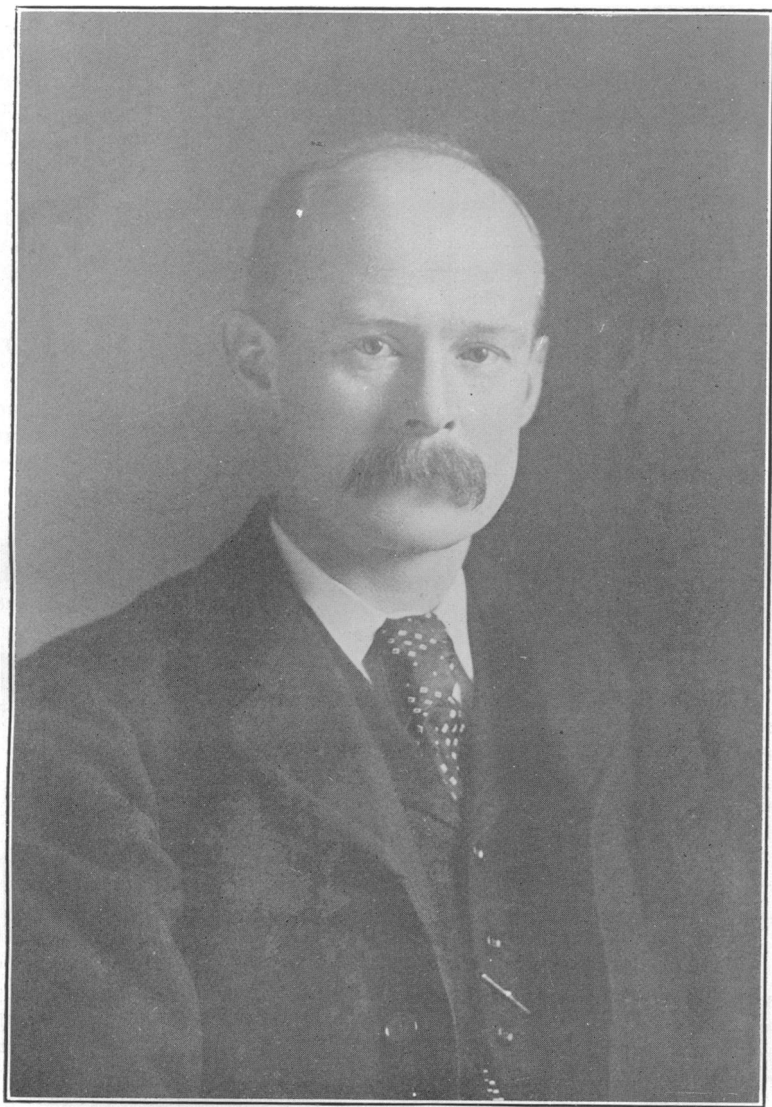
thes showed how, fifty to one hundred thousand years ago, the great glaciers swept over the western slope of the Sierra and carved the valleys. The concluding geological lecture was on "The Origin of the Granite Domes of Yosemite."

The final series in the course, "The Indian Tribes and Folk Lore of the Sierra," was by Dr. A. L. Kroeber, professor of anthropology. In his first lecture he gave an account of the various tribes of Indians of California. The second address, "The Indians of Yosemite," was devoted to those tribes, Tenayas and Monos, which have for many generations made the Yosemite area their home. In his third lecture he gave an interesting discussion of the Indian legends and folk tales that haunt the Yosemite, reciting a number of them for the benefit of his hearers.

#### THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE BRITISH NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

DR. SIDNEY FREDERICK HARMER, since 1907 keeper of zoology, has been elected director of the natural history departments of the British Museum. Dr. Harmer was born in 1862 and received his academic degrees at London and Cambridge. At Cambridge he became fellow of King's College, lecturer in zoology and superintendent of the university museum of zoology. With Dr. A. E. Shipley, master of Christ's College and now vice-chancellor of the university, he edited the Cambridge Natural History. He is an authority on invertebrate zoology, especially on the polyzoa, and on the natural history and conservation of sea animals.

The directorship of the British Natural History Museum thus maintains the traditions set by Sir Richard Owen, Sir William Flower, Sir Ray Lankester, Sir Lazarus



**DR. SIDNEY FREDERICK HARMER,**  
Director of the British Natural History Museum.

Fletcher, even though their names may not be a series ascending in scientific distinction. The trustees had, however, planned to elect as director an executive officer of the museum without scientific qualification, passing over Dr. A. Smith Woodward, Dr. Harmer and other scientific men of the institution and of the country. They were prevented from doing so by vigorous protests from scientific men, a large number of leaders having, for example, signed a letter in which they said that to appoint a staff officer instead of a man of scientific standing would be "an affront to scientific men and of grave detriment to science."

The electing trustees of the British Museum are the Lord Chancellor, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Speaker of the House of Commons, and it is perhaps not surprising if they do not have expert qualifications for the conduct of a scientific institution. An English journal—*The Naturalist*—remarks: "In the old days when all our national collections were housed at Bloomsbury, and books and mummies were the chief attraction, a Chancellor, an Archbishop and a Speaker may have been a suitable tribunal. But science has made leaps and has bounded away to South Kensington since then, and the present government should see to it that the appointment of the director of the Natural History Museum is in the hands of men capable of judging the requirements of the post, instead of, as in the present case, attempting to give the honor to the person who salaams to them on the few occasions upon which they meet, and who has the privilege of recording the Great Words which issue from their Great Mouths."

It might be well if we should learn from the English situation, for we have a National Museum, which is

subsidiary to the Smithsonian Institution, whose regents are not scientific men. It now has a magnificent building and good collections; excellent scientific work is accomplished; but it has no director. Dr. G. Brown Goode, who was in charge as assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, was an admirable museum administrator and he was worthily succeeded by the late Dr. Richard Rathbun. But there seems to be no movement to place the museum in control of a director eminent in science.

#### USE OF THE GEOPHONE BY THE BUREAU OF MINES

THE geophone, a listening instrument invented by the French during the war to detect enemy sapping and underground mining operations and for the location of enemy artillery, is now being used by the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, as a possible aid in locating miners who have been entombed after a disaster. The instrument was developed by the United States engineers during the war and is now used by the bureau according to plans drawn by them.

Alan Leighton, assistant chemist of the bureau, who now has charge of these investigations, reports that the instrument, though small, is essentially a seismograph, since it works on the same principle as the ponderous apparatus with which earthquake tremors are recorded. It consists of an iron ring about three and a half inches in diameter, within the center of which is suspended a lead disk which is fastened by a single bolt through two mica discs, one of which covers the top and the other the bottom of the ring. There then are two brass cap pieces, the top one having an opening in its center to which is fastened a rubber tube, leading to a stethoscopic ear piece.

We then have really nothing but